

**R156. Commerce, Occupational and Professional Licensing.**

**R156-60c. Professional Counselor Licensing Act Rules.**

**R156-60c-101. Title.**

These rules are known as the "Professional Counselor Licensing Act Rules".

**R156-60c-102. Definitions.**

In addition to the definitions in Title 58, Chapters 1 and 60, as used in Title 58, Chapters 1 and 60, or these rules:

(1) "Internship" means:

(a) 900 clock hours of supervised counseling experience of which 360 hours must be in the provision of mental health therapy. If an applicant completed the internship prior to October 31, 2003, the 600 hour internship under the prior rule shall be acceptable.

(2) "Practicum" means a supervised counseling experience in an appropriate setting of at least three semester or four and 1/2 quarter hours duration for academic credit.

(3) "Unprofessional conduct" as defined in Title 58, Chapters 1 and 60 is further defined, in accordance with Subsection 58-1-203(5), in Section R156-60c-502.

**R156-60c-103. Authority - Purpose.**

These rules are adopted by the division under the authority of Subsection 58-1-106(1) to enable the division to administer Title 58, Chapter 60, Part 4.

**R156-60c-104. Organization - Relationship to Rule R156-1.**

The organization of this rule and its relationship to Rule R156-1 is as described in Section R156-1-107.

**R156-60c-302a. Qualifications for Licensure - Education Requirements.**

(1) Pursuant to Subsection 58-60-405(1)(d)(i), the degree and educational program which prepares one to competently engage in mental health therapy is established and clarified to be a masters or doctorate degree in Mental Health Counseling with the classification of a Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling/Therapy degree or Mental Health Counseling degree, which degree is received from an institution accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), at the time the applicant obtained the education, which includes a minimum of 60 semester (90 quarter) hours of graduate studies and includes the specific course requirements as specified in Subsection (2).

(2) The core curriculum in Subsection 58-60-405(1)(d) shall consist of the following courses:

(a) a minimum of two semester or three quarter hours shall be in ethical standards, issues, behavior and decision-making;

(b) a minimum of two semester or three quarter hours shall be in professional roles and functions, trends and history, professional preparation standards and credentialing;

(c) a minimum of two semester or three quarter hours shall be in individual theory;

(d) a minimum of two semester or three quarter hours shall be in group theory;

(e) a minimum of six semester or nine quarter hours shall be in human growth and development.

Examples are:

(i) physical, social and psychosocial development;

(ii) personality development;

(iii) learning theory and cognitive development;

(iv) emotional development;

(v) life-span development;

(vi) enhancing wellness;

(vii) human sexuality; and

(viii) career development;

(f) a minimum of three semester or four and 1/2 quarter hours shall be in cultural foundations.

Examples are:

(i) human diversity;

(ii) multicultural issues and trends;

- (iii) gender issues;
  - (iv) exceptionality;
  - (v) disabilities;
  - (vi) aging; and
  - (vii) discrimination;
- (g) a minimum of six semester or nine quarter hours shall be in the application of individual and group therapy and other therapeutic methods and interventions. Examples are:
  - (i) building, maintaining and terminating relationships;
  - (ii) solution-focused and brief therapy;
  - (iii) crisis intervention;
  - (iv) prevention of mental illness;
  - (v) treatment of specific syndromes;
  - (vi) case conceptualization;
  - (vii) referral, supportive and follow-up services; and
  - (viii) lab not to exceed four semester or six quarter hours;
- (h) a minimum of two semester or three quarter hours shall be in psychopathology and DSM classification;
  - (i) a minimum of two semester or three quarter hours shall be in dysfunctional behaviors. Examples are:
    - (i) addictions;
    - (ii) substance abuse;
    - (iii) cognitive dysfunction;
    - (iv) sexual dysfunction; and
    - (v) abuse and violence;
  - (j) a minimum of two semester or three quarter hours shall be in a foundation course in test and measurement theory;
  - (k) a minimum of two semester or three quarter hours shall be in an advanced course in assessment of mental status;
  - (l) a minimum of three semester or four and 1/2 quarter hours shall be in research and evaluation. This shall not include a thesis, dissertation, or project, but may include:
    - (i) statistics;
    - (ii) research methods, qualitative and quantitative;
    - (iii) use and interpretation of research data;
    - (iv) evaluation of client change; and
    - (v) program evaluation;
  - (m) a minimum of three semester or four and 1/2 quarter hours of practicum as defined in Subsection R156-60c-102(2);
  - (n) a minimum of six semester or nine quarter hours of internship as defined in Subsection R156-60c-102(1); and
  - (o) a minimum of 17 semester or 25.5 quarter hours of course work in the behavioral sciences. No more than six semester or nine quarter hours of credit for thesis, dissertation or project hours shall be counted toward the required core curriculum hours in this subsection.
- (3) The supplemental course work shall consist of formal graduate level work meeting the requirements of Subsections (1) and (2) in regularly offered and scheduled classes. University based directed reading courses may be approved at the discretion of the board.
- (4) The following degrees do not prepare a person to competently engage in mental health therapy: Career Counseling, College Counseling, Community Counseling, Gerontological Counseling, School Counseling, Student Affairs, Rehabilitation Counseling, Music Therapy, Art Therapy, or Dance Therapy. Applicants who have one of these degrees or comparable degrees and who subsequently return to college and complete the classes which have been included in the Marriage, Couple and Family Counseling/Therapy degree or the Mental Health Counseling degree and as outlined in Subsection (1) and (2), may request the Division and the Board to consider their education as equivalent to the requirements for licensure. Upon completion of this equivalent education requirement, the applicant may be granted a license as a certified professional counselor intern under Subsection 58-60-405(2) or a temporary professional counselor license

under Section 58-60-117.

(5) An applicant who has met the degree requirements under Subsection (1) which prepares one to competently engage in mental health therapy, but who is deficit in one or more of the courses provided in Subsection (2) may be granted a temporary professional counselor license under Section 58-60-117.

**R156-60c-302b. Qualifications for Licensure - Experience Requirements.**

(1) The professional counselor and mental health therapy training qualifying an applicant for licensure as a professional counselor under Subsections 58-60-405(1)(e) and (f) shall:

- (a) be completed in not less than two years;
- (b) be completed while the applicant is an employee of a public or private agency engaged in mental health therapy under the supervision of a qualified professional counselor, psychiatrist, psychologist, clinical social worker, registered psychiatric mental health nurse specialist, or marriage and family therapist; and
- (c) be completed under a program of supervision by a mental health therapist meeting the requirements under Sections R156-60c-401 and R156-60c-402.

(2) An applicant for licensure as a professional counselor, who is not seeking licensure by endorsement based upon licensure in another jurisdiction, who has completed all or part of the professional counselor and mental health therapy training requirements under Subsection (1) outside the state may receive credit for that training completed outside of the state if it is demonstrated by the applicant that the training completed outside the state is equivalent to and in all respects meets the requirements for training under Subsections 58-60-405(1)(e) and (f), and Subsections R156-60c-302b(1). The applicant shall have the burden of demonstrating by evidence satisfactory to the division and board that the training completed outside the state is equivalent to and in all respects meets the requirements under this Subsection.

**R156-60c-302c. Qualifications for Licensure - Examination Requirements.**

(1) An applicant for licensure as a professional counselor under Subsection 58-60-405(1)(g) must pass the following examinations:

- (a) the Utah Professional Counselor Law, Rules and Ethics Examination;
- (b) the National Counseling Examination of the National Board for Certified Counselors; and
- (c) the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination of the National Board of Certified Counselors.

**R156-60c-303. Renewal Cycle - Procedures.**

(1) In accordance with Subsection 58-1-308(1), the renewal date for the two-year renewal cycle applicable to licenses under Title 58, Chapter 60, is established by rule in Section R156-1-308.

(2) Renewal procedures shall be in accordance with Section R156-1-308.

**R156-60c-304. Continuing Education.**

(1) There is hereby established a continuing professional education requirement for all individuals licensed under Title 58, Chapter 60, Part 4, as a professional counselor and certified professional counselor intern.

(2) During each two year period commencing September 30th of each even numbered year, a professional counselor or certified professional counselor intern shall be required to complete not less than 40 hours of qualified professional education directly related to the licensee's professional practice.

(3) The required number of hours of professional education for an individual who first becomes licensed during the two year period shall be decreased in a pro-rata amount equal to any part of that two year period preceding the date on which that individual first became licensed.

(4) Qualified professional education under this Section shall:

- (a) have an identifiable clear statement of purpose and defined objective for the educational program directly related to the practice of a mental health therapist professional counselor;
- (b) be relevant to the licensee's professional practice;
- (c) be presented in a competent, well organized, and sequential manner consistent with the stated purpose and objective of the program;
- (d) be prepared and presented by individuals who are qualified by education, training, and experience; and

(e) have associated with it a competent method of registration of individuals who actually completed the professional education program and records of that registration and completion are available for review.

(5) Credit for professional education shall be recognized in accordance with the following:

(a) unlimited hours shall be recognized for professional education completed in blocks of time of not less than one hour in formally established classroom courses, seminars, or conferences;

(b) a maximum of 10 hours per two year period may be recognized for teaching in a college or university, teaching qualified continuing professional education courses in the field of mental health therapy professional counseling, or supervision of an individual completing his experience requirement for licensure in a mental health therapist license classification; and

(c) a maximum of six hours per two year period may be recognized for clinical readings directly related to practice as a mental health therapist professional counselor.

(6) A licensee shall be responsible for maintaining competent records of completed qualified professional education for a period of four years after close of the two year period to which the records pertain. It is the responsibility of the licensee to maintain such information with respect to qualified professional education to demonstrate it meets the requirements under this Section.

(7) A licensee who documents he is engaged in full time activities or is subjected to circumstances which prevent that licensee from meeting the continuing professional education requirements established under this Section may be excused from the requirement for a period of up to three years. However, it is the responsibility of the licensee to document the reasons and justify why the requirement could not be met.

#### **R156-60c-306. License Reinstatement - Requirements.**

In addition to the requirements established in Section R156-1-308e, an applicant for reinstatement of his license after two years following expiration of that license shall be required to meet the following reinstatement requirements:

(1) if deemed necessary, meet with the board for the purpose of evaluating the applicant's current ability to engage safely and competently in practice as a professional counselor and to make a determination of any additional education, experience or examination requirements which will be required before reinstatement;

(2) upon the recommendation of the board, establish a plan of supervision under an approved supervisor which may include up to 4,000 hours of professional counselor and mental health therapy training as a professional counselor-temporary;

(3) pass the Utah Professional Counselor Law, Rules and Ethics Examination;

(4) pass the National Counseling Examination of the National Board for Certified Counselors if it is determined by the board that current taking and passing of the examination is necessary to demonstrate the applicant's ability to engage safely and competently in practice as a professional counselor;

(5) pass the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination if it is determined by the board that current taking and passing of the examination is necessary to demonstrate the applicant's ability to engage safely and competently in practice as a professional counselor; and

(6) complete a minimum of 40 hours of professional education in subjects determined by the board as necessary to ensure the applicant's ability to engage safely and competently in practice as a professional counselor.

#### **R156-60c-401. Requirements to be Qualified as a Professional Counselor Training Supervisor and Mental Health Therapist Training Supervisor.**

In accordance with Subsections 58-60-405(1)(e) and (f), in order for an individual to be qualified as a professional counselor training supervisor or mental health therapist trainer, the individual shall have the following qualifications:

(1) be currently licensed in good standing in a profession set forth for a supervisor under Subsection 58-60-405(1)(e) in the state in which the supervised training is being performed; and

(2) have engaged in lawful practice as a licensee engaged in the practice of mental health therapy for not less than 4,000 hours in a period of not less than two years prior to beginning supervision activities.

#### **R156-60c-402. Duties and Responsibilities of a Supervisor of Professional Counselor and Mental Health Therapy Training.**

The duties and responsibilities of a licensee providing supervision to an individual completing supervised professional counselor and mental health therapy training requirements for licensure as a professional counselor are to:

- (1) be professionally responsible for the acts and practices of the supervisee which are a part of the required supervised training;
- (2) be engaged in a relationship with the supervisee in which the supervisor is independent from control by the supervisee and in which the ability of the supervisor to supervise and direct the practice of the supervisee is not compromised;
- (3) be available for advice, consultation, and direction consistent with the standards and ethics of the profession and the requirements suggested by the total circumstances including the supervisee's level of training, diagnosis of patients, and other factors known to the supervisee and supervisor;
- (4) provide periodic review of the client records assigned to the supervisee;
- (5) comply with the confidentiality requirements of Section 58-60-114;
- (6) monitor the performance of the supervisee for compliance with laws, standards, and ethics applicable to the practice of professional counseling and report violations to the division;
- (7) supervise only a supervisee who is an employee of a public or private mental health agency;
- (8) submit appropriate documentation to the division with respect to all work completed by the supervisee evidencing the performance of the supervisee during the period of supervised professional counselor and mental health therapy training, including the supervisor's evaluation of the supervisee's competence in the practice of professional counseling and mental health therapy;
- (9) supervise not more than three supervisees at any given time unless approved by the board and division; and
- (10) assure each supervisee is licensed as a certified professional counselor intern prior to beginning the supervised training of the supervisee as required under Subsection 58-60-405(1)(e) and (f).

**R156-60c-502. Unprofessional Conduct.**

"Unprofessional conduct" includes:

- (1) acting as a supervisor or accepting supervision of a supervisor without complying with or ensuring the compliance with the requirements of Sections R156-60c-401 and R156-60c-402;
- (2) engaging in the supervised practice of mental health therapy when not in compliance with Subsections R156-60c-302b(3) and R156-60c-402(7);
- (3) engaging in and aiding or abetting conduct or practices which are dishonest, deceptive or fraudulent;
- (4) engaging in or aiding or abetting deceptive or fraudulent billing practices;
- (5) failing to establish and maintain appropriate professional boundaries with a client or former client;
- (6) engaging in dual or multiple relationships with a client or former client in which there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the client;
- (7) engaging in sexual activities or sexual contact with a client with or without client consent;
- (8) engaging in sexual activities or sexual contact with a former client within two years of documented termination of services;
- (9) engaging in sexual activities or sexual contact at any time with a former client who is especially vulnerable or susceptible to being disadvantaged because of the client's personal history, current mental status, or any condition which could reasonably be expected to place the client at a disadvantage recognizing the power imbalance which exists or may exist between the professional counselor and the client;
- (10) engaging in sexual activities or sexual contact with client's relatives or other individuals with whom the client maintains a relationship when that individual is especially vulnerable or susceptible to being disadvantaged because of his personal history, current mental status, or any condition which could reasonably be expected to place that individual at a disadvantage recognizing the power imbalance which exists or may exist between the professional counselor and that individual;
- (11) physical contact with a client when there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the client resulting from the contact;
- (12) engaging in or aiding or abetting sexual harassment or any conduct which is exploitive or abusive with respect to a student, trainee, employee, or colleague with whom the licensee has supervisory or management responsibility;

(13) failing to render impartial, objective, and informed services, recommendations or opinions with respect to custodial or parental rights, divorce, domestic relationships, adoptions, sanity, competency, mental health or any other determination concerning an individual's civil or legal rights;

(14) exploiting a client for personal gain;

(15) use of a professional client relationship to exploit a person that is known to have a personal relationship with a client for personal gain;

(16) failing to maintain appropriate client records for a period of not less than ten years from the documented termination of services to the client;

(17) failing to obtain informed consent from the client or legal guardian before taping, recording or permitting third party observations of client care or records;

(18) failure to cooperate with the Division during an investigation; and

(19) failure to abide by the provision of the American Counseling Association's Code of Ethics, 2005, which is adopted and incorporated by reference.

**KEY: licensing, counselors, mental health, professional counselors**

**Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: June 1, 2006**

**Notice of Continuation: March 14, 2005**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 58-60-401; 58-1-106(1)(a); 58-1-202(1)(a)**

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR  
LICENSING ACT RULES**

**R156-60c  
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